

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 14265 02 OF 02 271655Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 /077 W

----- 018213

R 271719Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8623

INFO FUMJGM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 3358

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 14265

6. ABDULLAH RESPONDED TO THIS ATTACK AT A SEPTEMBER 24 RELIGIOUS MEETING IN SRINAGAR BY VIGOROUSLY DENYING THE CHARGES. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIS ACCUSERS, HE SAID THAT "SUCH TRIVIAL ALLEGATIONS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE CONTEMPT THEY DESERVE." WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SHEIKH MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN EDGING A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE JAN SANGH IN ORDER TO WOO SUPPORT IN PREDOMINANTLY HINDU JAMMU (HIEZMAIN BASE OF SUPPORT IS STILL CONFINED TO MUSLIV KASHMIR) AND HAS FREED VIRTUALLY ALL RSS AND JANA SANGH PRISONERS IN KASHMIR, THIS EXCHANGE OF ACCUSATIONS MUST BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ABDULLAH AND THE CENTRAL CONGRESS LEADERSHIP. THE SHEIKH DISLIKES AND IS CRITICAL OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS OF MEHTA (HIMSELF A RAJYA SABHA MP FROM JAMMU) AND HAS ATTACKED HIM QUITE OPENLY FOR HIS PRE-1954 ASSOCIATION WITH THE RSS. THUS, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 14265 02 OF 02 271655Z

THE JAMMU CONGRESS LEADERS' ATTACK ON ABDULLAH FOR "BEFRIENDING" THE JAN SANGH MAY BE SEEN AS A MEANS OF ANSWERING THE SHEIKH'S CRITICISM OF OM MEHTA.

7. IN ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF THE GROWING DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN ABDULLAH AND THE CONGRESS, WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY TOLD THAT ABOUT SEPT 11 HE TOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING IN SRINAGAR THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RESIGN AS CHIEF MINISTER AND INSISTED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO THE SUPPRESSION OF DEMOCRACY IN J&K. SAMACHAR REPORTED THAT THE SHEIKH HAD THREATENED TO RESIGN AT A RELIGIOUS GATHERING IN SRINAGAR SEPT 24 IF THE CONGRESS WITHDREW ITS SUPPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

8. THE MOST RECENT INDICATION OF THE BAD BLOOD ON BOTH SIDES IS THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER HOLDING CIVIC ELECTIONS IN SRINAGAR, JAMMU, AND OTHER URBAN AREAS. ALREADY TWICE POSTPONED, THEY ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LATE OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER. WE GATHER THAT A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE TO THE EFFECT THAT THESE POLLS WOULD BE CONTESTED ON A NON-PARTY BASIS. LATER, HOWEVER, STATE CONGRESS LEADERS CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS RENEGING ON THIS UNDERSTANDING AND WAS PREPARING TO FIELD ITS OWN CANDIDATES. NOT TO BE OUTFLANKED, THE CONGRESS PREPARED TO DO LIKEWISE, AND AN OPEN ELECTORAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES APPEARED LIKELY, THUS LEADING TO SPECULATING

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THE CIVIC ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED ONCE AGAIN. THE SHEIKH, HOWEVER ; SEEMS INTENT ON FORGING AHEAD AND TOLD A PRAYER MEETING SEPTEMBER 26 THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD ON TIME. IN AN OBVIOUS WARNING TO THE CONGRESS, HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE ELECTORAL ADJUSTMENTS WITH MAULVI FAROOQ'S AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE IN THE COMING POLLS. (THE AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE, FORMERLY A PRO-PAKISTAN PARTY, HAD JOINTLY SPONSORED CANDIDATES WITH ABDULLAH'S OLD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 14265 02 OF 02 271655Z

PLEBISCITE FRONT IN THE 1972 CIVIC ELECTIONS.)

9. COMMENT: RUMORS CONTINUE TO FLOAT AROUND DELHI THAT OTHER CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE ARE PREPARING TO JUMP OVER TO THE SHEIKH'S SIDE AND THAT THE CONGRESS HAS IN FACT ONLY A PAPER THIN MAJORITY. HOWEVER, WE THINK THIS IS PROBABLY NOT YET TRUE. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT THE SHEIKH IS VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE PROPOSED 44TH CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL BOTH BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS FURTHER CENTRALIZATION OF POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE GOI AND BECAUSE IT IMPOSES SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON THE POWERS OF STATE HIGH COURTS. THE SHEIKH'S CLOSE SUPPORTER, INDEPENDENT MP S. AYFED

SHAMIM, HAS BEEN AN EVEN SHARPER AND MORE TRENCANT  
CRITIC OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE EMERGENCY AND THE NEW  
AMENDMENT BILL IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND WE SUSPECT  
THAT HE SPEAKS INDIRECTLY FOR ABDULLAH HIMSELF.

10. PULLING TOGETHER  
ARE THE THREADS OF ACCUSATIONS  
AND COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN FLYING FOR THE  
PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, IT IS APPARENT THAT CONGRESS-  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE RELATIONS-- NEVER VERY CLOSE--  
ARE CURRENTLY POOR. THIS IS PROBABLY TO ABDULLAH'S  
ADVANTAGE: SINCE HE IS NO LONGER THE IMPRISONED  
MARTYR OF THE KASHMIRI CAUSE, BUT RATHER AN ORDINARY  
POLITICIAN, THE SHEIKHS CHARISMA HAS SUFFERED SINCE HE  
BECAME CHIEF MINISTER LAST YEAR. ALSO, SEVERAL OF HIS

REACTIONS(SUCH AS ENDING THE CENTER'S PRICE SUPPORTS  
TO FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE STUN) HAVE BEEN UNPOPULAR.  
THUS, IT IS IN HIS INTEREST TO APPEAR TO BE IN CON-  
FLICT WITH THE CENTER AND HE PROBABLY WELCOMES THE  
CHANCE TO AIR HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE CONGRESS IN  
PUBLIC.

11. WE SHOULD KNOW,  
HOWEVER, THAT KASHMIR POLITICS  
HAVE A WAY OF APPEARING TO BE CONSTANTLY AT THE SIMMER,  
BUT RARELY REACH A FULL BOIL. MRS GANDHI WILL BE  
EXTREMELY CAREFUL TO AVOID AN OPEN BREAK WITH ABDULLAH,  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 14265 02 OF 02 271655Z

AND WE WOULD GUESS THAT THERE IS STILL QUITE A DIS-  
TANCE TO GO BEFORE A STATE OF TOTAL CONFRONTATION  
IS REACHED. MRS GANDHI WANTS TO PRESERVE THE KASHMIR  
ACCORD AT ALL COSTS.  
SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 16 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** YINT IN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NEWDE14265  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197609108/baaaeniw.tel  
**Line Count:** 148  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KASHMIR POLITICS HEATING UP AGAIN  
**TAGS:** n/a  
**To:** STATE INFO FUMJGM COLOMBO  
DACCA  
ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASUH KATHMANDU  
LONDON  
KARACHI

LAHORE  
MADRAS  
BOMBAY  
CALCUTTA

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006